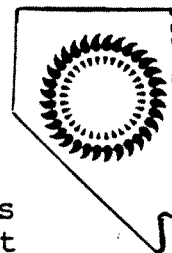


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NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

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SYNOPSIS

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STATE PUBLICATIONS

John W. James
State Climatologist
Mackay Science Hall
University of Nevada-Reno
Reno, NV 89557

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February was the third wet and cold month in a row over most of Nevada. At Las Vegas it was the wettest February since airport records began in 1937, with 2.52" falling. This was over five times normal and .03" higher than the previous wettest February in 1976. The two month Jan-Feb total at Las Vegas is 4.15", or .02" higher than the normal annual total! The Water Year (October 1 -February 28) there is now 7.08", over 3 1/2 times normal. This is the second winter in a row of unusually wet conditions in Southern Nevada.

It wasn't as wet in the rest of the State, but still above normal in all but a persistently dry swath in the central part of the State from Lovelock, Fallon and Yerington to Eureka and Duckwater.

Some places in the Northeast (e.g. Ruby Lake and Elko) experienced one of the coldest Februarys on record, with departures from normal of 10 degrees or more.

With the normally wettest portion of the 1992-93 Water Year now passed, October 1 1992 - February 28, 1993 totals range from 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 times normal in the South to 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 times in the Far West and Northeast, to only 3/4 of normal in a portion of Central Nevada.

TEMPERATURE

It was colder than normal Statewide. Departures ranged from just a little cooler than normal in part of the South to over 9 degrees cooler in much of the Northeast. For example, Ruby Lake (-11 1/2), Elko (-11), and Pine Valley (-11) had one of the coldest Februarys on record, while Las Vegas (-1), Pahrump (-1), and Dyer (-1) were just a bit cooler than normal. The Statewide "coolness" was more the result of persistently cool conditions, with no warm spells, than it was a case of extreme cold. For example, the highest temperature in the Silver State last month (70 at Laughlin and Callville Bay) was 23 degrees lower than the State February record set seven years ago at Laughlin! The lowest this February (-27 at Charleston and Wildhorse Reservoir) was 15 degrees higher than the State February low set four years ago at Carlin Newmont.

PRECIPITATION

In addition to below normal precipitation in the central

part of the State, it was also drier than normal in the extreme north from Jackpot and Jarbidge to McDermitt and Oroville. The driest locations were Duckwater with no precipitation this month, Lahontan Dam with .15", Lovelock airport .17", Mountain City .26", Hawthorne .27", and Fallon .29".

On the wet side of the ledger, in addition to Las Vegas, Boulder City had the wettest February (3.11") since records began in 1931. It was also the wettest February at Searchlight (3.86") in an 80 year-long record, at Overton 3.75", Valley of Fire 3.87", Pahrump 2.89", 8,500 foot Lee Canyon 14.27", and 7,500 foot Kyle Canyon 13.87". At the latter two sites, 70" and 57" of snow fell, respectively. Also, Lee Canyon had 5.04" of precipitation in 24 hours and Kyle Canyon 4.50" on the 20th. On the 8th and 9th, a new 24 hour record was set at Las Vegas, with a record 2.40" in 16 hours at nearby Henderson.

Other Nevada wet locations in February were 8,500 foot Tahoe Meadows with 13.18", 7,500 foot Verdi Peak with 10.88" and 88" of new snow. The three month Dec-Feb totals at Verdi Peak are now 45.17" and 348" of snowfall! At Upper Incline (7,500 foot) there was 103" of new snow and a 108" pack on the 24th.

The 50" of snow that has fallen thus far this winter at the Reno airport is about twice normal, and the most since 59" was measured over 40 years ago in the infamous 1951-52 winter.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

With all the storm activity, February was an unusually cloudy month. Las Vegas had 74 percent of the normal sun hours and an average of 81 percent, Reno 61 percent (average = 68%), Ely 60 percent (average = 67%), and Winnemucca only 48 percent and an average of 53 percent.

Wind speeds averages were below normal in the West and the East, and above normal in the North and South. Peak gusts reached 60 mph in the Carson Valley and Reno suburbs, and 54 mph in Smokey Valley, all on the 20th.

Evaporation was below normal this month with Boulder City's 5.48" a half inch below the 60 year normal.

NOTE: April extremes:

106 Laughlin and Cottonwood Cove 1989
-12 Ruth 1963

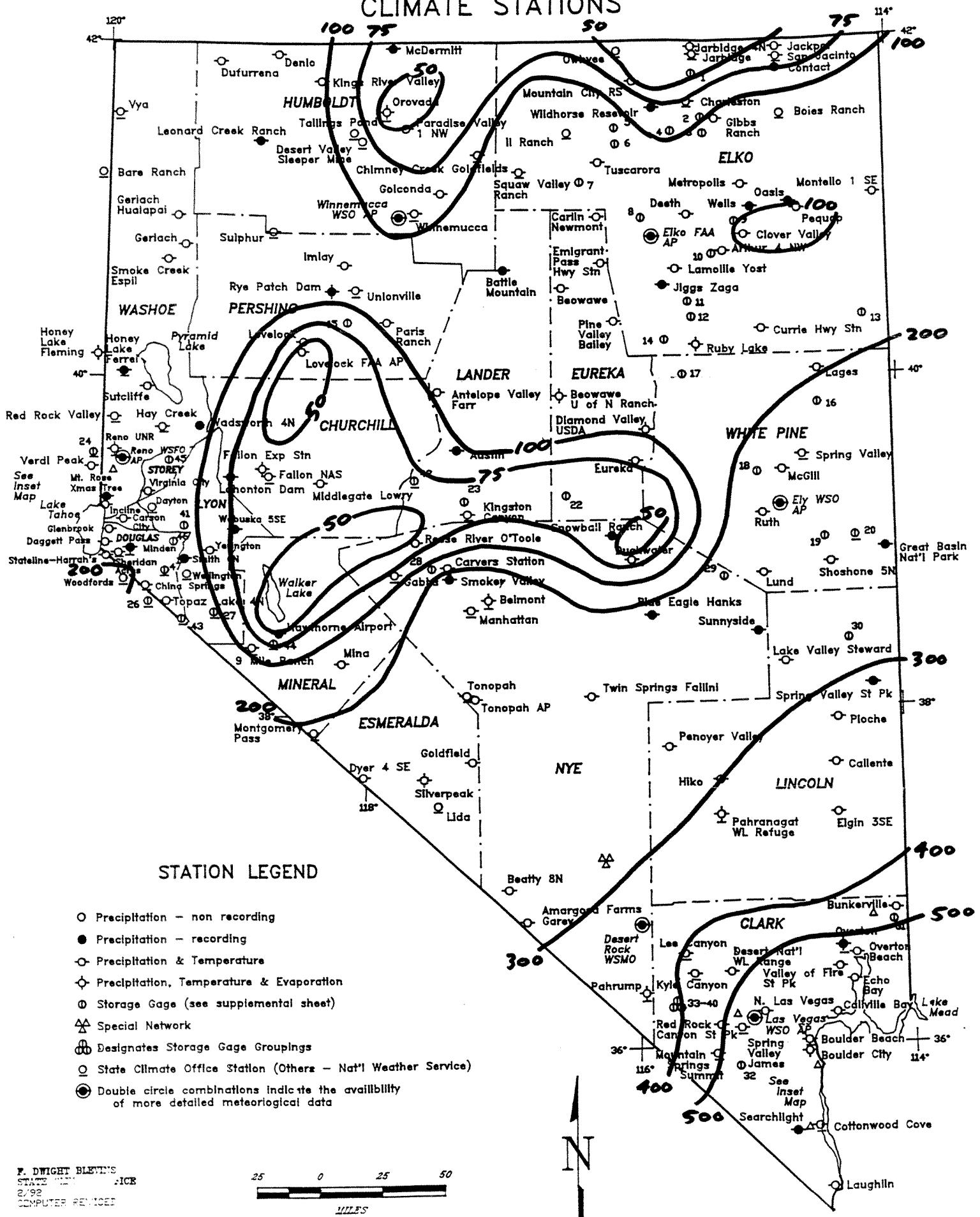
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NEVADA

CLIMATE STATIONS

PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL
PRECIPITATION

FEBRUARY 1993



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